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All Beethoven : Celebrating the Shanghai Quartet's 35th Anniversary

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THE 18/19 SEASON
THE HEIGHTS OF IMAGINATION

Quartet-in-Residence
Shanghai Quartet

All Beethoven

Celebrating the Shanghai Quartet's 35th Anniversary



Photo by Dong Yan

September 30, 2018
Alexander Kasser Theater

**Arts + Cultural
Programming**



MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY

**Large
Print**

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President

Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts

Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts + Cultural Programming

Quartet-in-Residence

Shanghai Quartet

All Beethoven

Celebrating the Shanghai Quartet's 35th Anniversary

Weigang Li, violin

Yi-Wen Jiang, violin

Honggang Li, viola

Nicholas Tzavaras, cello

Program

String Quartet no. 4 in C Minor, op. 18 no. 4 Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

I. Allegro ma non tanto

II. Andante scherzoso quasi allegretto

III. Minuetto: Allegretto

IV. Allegro – Prestissimo

String Quartet no. 8 in E Minor, op. 59 no. 2

I. Allegro

II. Molto adagio (*Si tratta questo pezzo con molto di sentimento*)

III. Allegretto

IV. Finale: presto

~~Intermission~~

String Quartet no. 14 in C-sharp Minor, op.131

- I. Adagio ma non troppo e molto espressivo
- II. Allegro molto vivace
- III. Allegro moderato – Adagio
- IV. Andante ma non troppo e molto cantabile – Andante moderato e lusinghiero – Adagio – Allegretto – Adagio, ma non troppo e semplice – Allegretto
- V. Presto
- VI. Adagio quasi un poco andante
- VII. Allegro

Duration: 2 hours, including one 15-minute intermission.

In consideration of both audiences and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

About the Artists

Renowned for its passionate musicality, impressive technique, and multicultural innovations, the Shanghai Quartet has become one of the world's foremost chamber ensembles. Its elegant style melds the delicacy of Eastern music with the emotional breadth of Western repertoire, allowing it to traverse musical genres including traditional Chinese folk music, masterpieces of Western music, and cutting-edge contemporary works.

Formed at the Shanghai Conservatory in 1983, the Quartet has worked with the world's most distinguished artists and regularly tours the major music centers of Europe, North America, and Asia. Recent festival performances range from the International Music Festivals of Seoul and Beijing to the Festival Pablo Casals in France and the Beethoven Festival in Poland as well as numerous concerts in all

regions of North America. The Quartet has appeared at Carnegie Hall in chamber performances and with orchestra; in 2006 they gave the premiere of Takuma Itoh's Concerto for Quartet and Orchestra in Isaac Stern Auditorium. Among innumerable collaborations with noted artists, they have performed with the Tokyo, Juilliard, and Guarneri Quartets; cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Lynn Harrell; pianists Menahem Pressler, Peter Serkin, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Yuja Wang; pipa virtuoso Wu Man; and the vocal ensemble Chanticleer. The Shanghai Quartet has been a regular performer at many of North America's leading chamber music festivals, including Maverick Concerts, where they recently made their 27th consecutive annual appearance.

The Quartet has a long history of championing new music and juxtaposing traditions of Eastern and Western music. With more than 30 commissioned works, their recent premieres include Du Yun's *Tattooed in Snow* (2015); Zhao Lin's *Red Lantern* (2015) for pipa and string quartet; and String Quartet no. 12, *Fantasia notturna* by William Bolcom (2017). The Quartet's 30th-anniversary season in 2013 brought five new commissions: *Bullycide* by David Del Tredici; *Fantasie* by Australian composer Carl Vine; a concerto for string quartet and symphony orchestra by Jeajoon Ryu; *Verge Quartet* by Lei Liang; and *Scherzo* by Robert Aldridge, commissioned by Yu Long and the Beijing Music Festival. Their 25th anniversary season featured commission works by Penderecki (String Quartet No. 3: *Leaves from an Unwritten Diary*), Chen Yi (*From the Path of Beauty*), Vivian Fung, and jazz pianist Dick Hyman. The Penderecki quartet was premiered at the composer's 75th-birthday concert in Poland, followed by numerous performances worldwide. It was featured again at the composer's 80th-birthday celebration in 2013. Chen Yi's *From the Path of Beauty*, co-commissioned with Chanticleer, premiered in San Francisco, with performances at Tanglewood, Ravinia, Beijing, and Shanghai. Other important commissions and premieres include works by Bright Sheng, Lowell Liebermann, Sebastian Currier, Marc Neikrug, and Zhou Long. The tradition continues with forthcoming works by Wang Lei and Tan Dun composed for the Quartet's 35th anniversary in 2018–19.

The Shanghai Quartet has an extensive discography of more than 30 recordings, ranging from the Schumann and Dvořák piano quintets with Rudolf Buchbinder to Zhou Long's *Poems from Tang* for string quartet and orchestra with the Singapore Symphony (BIS). Delos released the Quartet's most popular disc, *Chinasong*, a

collection of Chinese folk songs arranged by Yi-Wen Jiang reflecting on his childhood memories of the Cultural Revolution in China. The complete Beethoven String Quartets, a highly praised, seven-disc project, can be heard on an acclaimed Camerata set, released in 2009.

A diverse and interesting array of media projects includes a cameo appearance playing Bartók's String Quartet No. 4 in Woody Allen's film *Melinda and Melinda*, and PBS television's *Great Performances* series. Violinist Weigang Li appeared in the documentary *From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China*, and the family of cellist Nicholas Tzavaras was the subject of the film *Music of the Heart*, starring Meryl Streep. The Shanghai Quartet is the subject of a documentary film, *Behind the Strings*, currently in production, to be released this year.

The Shanghai Quartet performs on four exceptional instruments by Goffriller, Guarneri, and Stradivari, generously loaned through the Beare's International Violin Society, to honor the Quartet's 35th anniversary. The instruments will be featured in eight cycles of the complete Beethoven String Quartets throughout the world. The Shanghai Quartet currently serves as **Quartet-in-Residence at the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University**, Ensemble-in-Residence with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and visiting guest professors of the Shanghai Conservatory and the Central Conservatory in Beijing. They are proudly sponsored by Thomastik-Infeld Strings and BAM cases.

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The **Office of Arts + Cultural Programming** (ACP) enhances the cultural, creative, and academic life of the Montclair State campus and the broader community. Its signature program, Peak Performances, features innovative works by international contemporary artists of exceptional merit, and by the next generation of great artists training at Montclair State University's College of the Arts. Through its Cultural Engagement program, ACP offers master classes, workshops, lectures, and discussions designed to deepen participants' understanding of the aesthetic, cultural, and social contexts of the performances presented.

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